



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Percentage of Howard County Citizens Affected by Crime Remains Low *Report Shows .08 Percent Affected by Violent Crime, 3.1 Percent by Total Crime*

Howard County Police released a new report today showing that crime affects a small percentage of citizens in the county. The semi-annual crime report, which presents crime data collected in the first half of 2003, indicates that .08 percent of the population was affected by violent crime, 1.2 percent by property crime, and 3.1 percent overall.

“We are pleased that such a small percentage of our citizens are affected by crime in Howard County,” said Police Chief G. Wayne Livesay. “Of course, every crime that *does* occur is one crime too many. But this data shows that the perception of crime may sometimes differ from the reality.”

During the first half of 2003, incidents of property crimes, such as burglary and theft, decreased. The department also received fewer reports of robberies in the first six months of this year, compared to the same time period in 2002. While police received eight more reports of rapes so far this year, almost all of the cases have been date rape reports and not stranger rapes. By June of this year, investigators had already closed 18 rape cases.

“While date rape is no less terrible a crime, citizens should rest assured that there does not appear to be any increased risk of stranger rapes in the county,” said Chief Livesay. “In fact, the likelihood of being a victim of any crime in this county remains very low.”

However, the likelihood of being assaulted for police officers was high in the first half of the year. Officers in the department were assaulted 67 times between January and June, compared to 50 times in the first half of last year. The department continues to train recruits and officers to effectively protect themselves on the job.

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